

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please modify paragraph 0169 as follows:

[0169] Fig. 15 is a flowchart of a process for quiescing a virtualization tree consistent with an embodiment of the invention. After receiving an instruction to fail a virtual volume, the VCM sends a quiescence instruction, including an indication of the failed volume, to the local VSM on each SP in the system (Step 1502). Each VSM completes existing tasks and then queues any incoming requests (e.g., write operations) for the failed volume (Step 1504). Each VSM also stops any long ~~lived~~-term operation currently underway (e.g., scrubbing, rebuilding, etc.) for the failed volume (Step 1506). When existing tasks and long ~~lived~~-term operations currently underway have been stopped, each VSM notifies the MVSP that local quiescence is complete (Step 1508). The MVSP may then generate a new virtualization tree without the failed volume (Step 1510). For example, the MVSP may generate a new system image with data partitioned across the existing ALUs except for the failed volume and pass the new system image to the virtualization block (VB) for creation of a global system image. The VB may in turn store the global system image (e.g., a virtualization tree) in a memory that is accessible to the host and/or administrator. Finally, the MVSP may send the tree mapping the new virtual volume object definitions to the local VSMs to implement the new volume without the failed volume (Step 1512). The creation and distribution of a new virtualization tree may be implemented using the processes described above in sections V and VI.

Please modify the Abstract as follows:

Systems consistent with the present invention perform quiescence of a network storage system in a storage virtualization environment including a virtualization layer that interfaces between a host and at least one storage device, wherein the virtualization layer defines at least one virtual volume comprising objects defining a mapping to data in the at least one storage device and storing information about a state of the at least one storage device in a virtualization database that is distributed across more than one processor in [[a]] the virtualization layer. A quiescence instruction may be implemented to maintain reliability and scalability of the storage virtualization environment.